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Dear Prospective Health Survey Participant:

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is being conducted in your area by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), an organization of 60,000 pediatricians dedicated to the health and well-being of all infants, children, adolescents and young adults, supports this major national survey.

NHANES assesses the health and nutritional status of adults, teens, and children in the United States. It is unique because it uses both interviews and physical measurements. In fact, children's growth charts are based on data from NHANES. NHANES findings help the AAP and pediatricians nationwide to address important health issues such as childhood obesity, asthma, cholesterol levels, and dental disease. This survey is one of the best sources of public health data available, with the ability to compare data on a year-to-year basis.

Information provided through NHANES allows the AAP and its members to effectively advocate for children. For example, when high lead levels in children were brought to national attention using NHANES data, AAP member pediatricians fought to eliminate lead from paints and gasoline. Since this change, lead levels in children have steadily declined.

The AAP hopes you or your child will participate in this important survey. The information you provide will be held in the strictest of confidence, and all participants will receive a full report of their personal examination results. If you have any questions, please contact the NHANES office at 800-452-6115.

Sincerely,

/Thomas K. McInerny/

Thomas K. McInerny, MD, FAAP  
President

TKM/ssm

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